

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below is intended to replace all prior listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use with a milking machine comprising one or more teat cups and a vacuum source providing a pulsed vacuum in the teat cups, for collecting a small volume of liquid for cold storage, the apparatus comprising:

a lay flat flexible bag comprising a collar defining an opening;

a housing for the flexible bag comprising an inlet conduit extending into the housing for receiving the liquid from the one or more teat cups and comprising an opening within the housing for delivering the liquid;

a port for providing a vacuum within the housing from said vacuum source; and

a retaining system that retains the collar of the flexible bag about the inlet conduit so that the bag receives liquid from the inlet opening; and

a transfer system that transfers the vacuum from the port for providing a vacuum within the housing to the inlet conduit when the collar of the flexible bag is retainable about the inlet conduit by the retaining system, the transfer system comprising at least one of:

space between the collar and inlet conduit when the collar is retained about the inlet conduit by the retaining system to provide transfer of the vacuum the housing to the inlet conduit via said space;

providing a pressure equalizing port in the inlet conduit.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein the transfer system comprises [[a]] the space between the collar and inlet conduit when the collar is retained about the inlet conduit by said retaining system to provide transfer of the vacuum the housing to the inlet conduit via said space.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the collar is relatively rigid when compared with the flexible bag.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the dimensions of the collar are greater than the adjacent portion of the inlet conduit to provide a space there between to allow the vacuum applied to the housing to be transferred from the vacuum port to said inlet conduit.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the collar of flexible bag is retained with the inlet conduit extending into the flexible bag through the opening.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the collar is sufficiently rigid to maintain its shape when retained about the inlet conduit by the retaining system.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the flexible bag is a lay flat bag comprising two sides joined by a heat seal.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the housing is sufficiently rigid to retain its shape under the vacuum from said milking machine.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a volume in the range of from 500 ml to 50 liters litres.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a volume in the range of from 5 litres to 40 litres.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a volume in the range of from 10 to 25 litres.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the housing comprises a lid comprising the top wall and a body comprising side and bottom walls.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[12]] 13 wherein the lid comprises said fluid inlet ~~comprising~~ a conduit for receiving the liquid

extending down from said top wall to provide an inlet port within the housing and wherein said lid further comprises the port for providing a vacuum.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the inlet conduit is provided with the retaining system for cooperating with the collar of the flexible bag.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the flexible bag has a relatively rigid collar defining the bag opening and the collar comprises a flange adapted to cooperate with the retaining system to retain the collar for receiving liquid from the inlet.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the bag comprises an internal pocket to allow sampling of the bag contents.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the internal pocket is formed by a heat seal extending from an edge of the bag.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the pocket has a volume of no more than 5% of the total volume of the flexible bag.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 for collecting a small volume of liquid said apparatus further comprising:

a plurality of teat cups;
a vacuum source for applying a vacuum to the teat cups for collecting liquid;
a reservoir for collecting relatively large volumes of milk; and
a vacuum line for providing a vacuum to the vacuum part of the housing.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20 further comprising a pressure oscillation system wherein the that provides pulsating vacuum to the teat cups is a pulsating vacuum and a vacuum line downstream of the apparatus for collecting relatively small volumes of liquid.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 20 further comprising a case for receiving liquid filled bags for freezing to provide a thickness of less than 20 cm.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 ~~when used in collection of~~ wherein the liquid is selected from the group consisting of ungulate colostrum, hyperimmune colostrum and specialty milks.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for making an apparatus for use with a milking machine comprising one or more teat cups and a vacuum source providing a pulsed vacuum in the teat cups, for collecting a small volume of liquid for cold storage, the method comprising:

providing a lay flat flexible bag comprising a collar defining an opening;

providing a housing for the flexible bag comprising an inlet conduit extending into the housing for receiving the liquid from the one or more teat cups and comprising an opening within the housing for delivering the liquid;

providing a port that provides a vacuum within the housing from the vacuum source; and

retaining the collar of the flexible bag about the inlet conduit so that the bag receives liquid from the inlet opening; and

transferring the vacuum from the port to provide a vacuum within the housing to the inlet conduit when the collar of the flexible bag is retained about the inlet conduit.